

Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
KING and LEWIS COUNTIES, WASHINGTON

2002 APHIS Cooperative Gypsy Moth Eradication Program  
Site-Specific Environmental Assessment

The United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA), in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Agriculture, (WSDA), is proposing an eradication program with the goal of eliminating isolated infestations and/or introductions of the non-native Gypsy Moth, *Lymantria dispar*, (Linnaeus), in King and Lewis counties, Washington during the spring of 2002. Under the process described in the National Environment Policy Act, 1969 (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to analyze the effect of the proposed action at the site-specific level. The environmental consequences of this program are analyzed in this EA, which is supported by and tiered to the "Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: a cooperative approach, Final Environmental Impact Statement, November 1995", (FEIS). The USDA examined the six alternatives available in the FEIS and has selected the preferred Alternative 6, which consists of suppression, eradication, and slow the spread. Under alternative 6, several treatment options are available for Gypsy Moth management. The treatment options analyzed included:

- 1) No action
- 2) *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk); a biological insecticide
- 3) Diflubenzuron; a chemical insecticide
- 4) Gypsy Moth nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV) or Gypchek; a biological insecticide
- 5) Mass trapping, Gypsy Moth traps with disparlure to attract male Gypsy Moths
- 6) Mating disruption, aerial application of disparlure
- 7) Sterile insect release, release of sterile or partially-sterile Gypsy Moth life stages

The potential environment impacts and mitigation measures of these treatment options are described in the FEIS and EA. The EA was prepared by the USDA and WSDA. The FEIS and EA are available for review at the following locations:

USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Office of the State Plant Health Director  
22000 Marine View Drive, Suite 201  
Des Moines, WA 98198

Washington State Library  
Point Plaza East, Bldg. 1  
6880 Capitol Blvd. S  
Tumwater, WA 98501

USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
APHIS Library, 1st floor  
4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737

A cooperative USDA/WSDA eradication project is selected. This cooperative program selects the preferred Alternative 6: specifically eradication, due to the geographic location of Washington State. The USDA / WSDA Gypsy Moth eradication strategy proposed for 2002 includes utilizing three applications of the biological insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, (Btk), at the rate of 24 billion international units, (BIU), per acre applied to all foliage either by ground based or aerial application. A forth application may be made if substantial rainfall occurs to soon following completion of an application. The insecticide may be mixed with the spreader-sticker Piyac. All applications will be followed by intensive trapping, inspections for egg masses, and removal of egg masses where found.

All of the comments on the Draft EA have been reviewed. The issues raised in the comments are addressed in the FEIS and the EA. For more information on specifics having to do with implementation of this program, please refer to the site specific 2002 EA. Implementation of this program, with associated operating procedures and mitigation measures as identified in the EA, would ensure that no significant adverse environmental impact would occur to the human environment.

Reasons for the finding of no significant impact include:

- A. B.t.k. used as described in this Environmental Assessment presents minimal risk of significant impact on human health.
- B. It is not anticipated that any non-target animal or plant populations would be adversely affected due to the limited size of the treatment areas. Any detrimental effects on susceptible non-target organisms would be transient and these populations would recover as individuals from nearby untreated areas re-colonized the treatment areas.
- C. Threatened, endangered, and sensitive species would not be adversely affected by this eradication project. Measures will be taken to protect the threatened, endangered, and sensitive species named in this EA.
- D. No detrimental effects on vegetation, water, or soil are known or anticipated due to this eradication project.
- E. No cumulative effects are known or anticipated.

This EA is consistent with Executive Order No. 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." That implementation of this cooperative USDA/WSDA eradication project will not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority populations and low-income populations. As required by the Executive Order of the President, opportunities for full participation in the NEPA process by such populations have been provided.



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05/01/02

Date